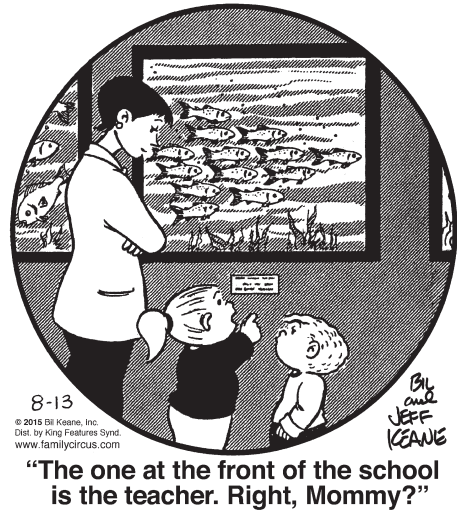


FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



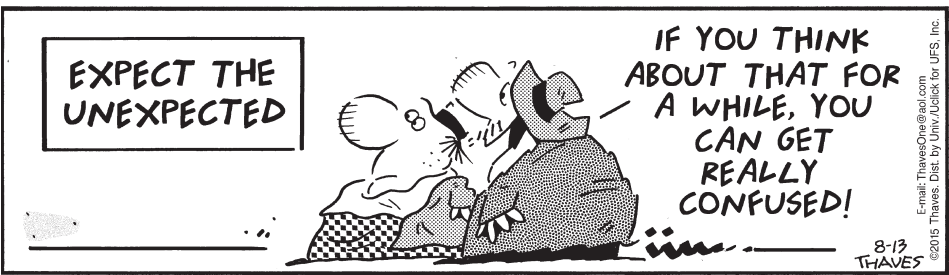
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



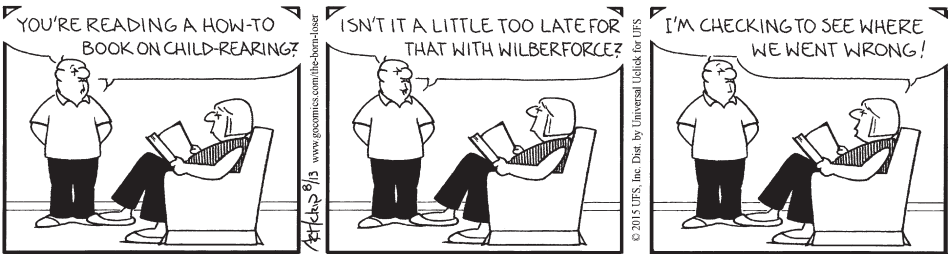
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



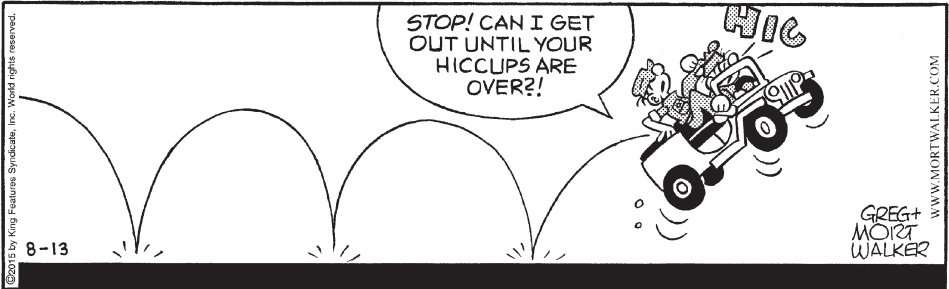
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



Forward Thinking Can Help Parents Deal With Cancer

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to "Not Talking About the Future" (March 24), whose wife has breast cancer, was told she has only a few years to live, and feels sad when her kids talk about their futures. My dad was diagnosed with stage four multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer, in 2006. He was told that even the most aggressive treatment would buy him only two or three more years. Well, he's now working on year nine.

While I must admit that it's been hard at times for me to stay positive about his prognosis, I try not to let it show. Instead, every chance I get, I talk about the future with him - holiday plans, plans for my wedding next year, projects around his house, etc. It helps to take his mind off the pain and nastiness of his treatments and gets him thinking about positive things.

Forward thinking has been great medicine for Dad. "Not Talking" and his wife don't really know how much more time she actually has, and it certainly doesn't hurt to think positively. — LOOKING AHEAD IN GLENDALE, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for your upbeat message. Read on for a sampling of what other readers had to say about that letter: DEAR ABBY: "Not Talking" asked if he should shield his sick wife from discussions involving the future. One thing my mom, who died last year, did for the future was to take a video of herself visiting with her grand-nephews so they would have it to look at when they are older. She also bought - or gave us - things for our future adopted child, to give to him or her later on. She crafted notebooks for us to hand out at her memorial service, so everyone would have something to cherish from her.

"Not Talking's" wife may want to consider doing some of these things. I send her, and everyone else dealing with cancer, a prayer of peace. — PROUD DAUGHTER, VANCOUVER, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: I was 13 when my father found out he had cancer. I didn't know what it was,

and no one in my family sat me down and told me he was going to die. He passed away at a hospital out of town, and I wasn't there when it happened. When I was told, I was heartbroken.

Now, as an adult, I am crushed that I wasn't able to have the conversations with him I

needed — about his boyhood, grandparents, his time in the Navy, my dreams, and just spending precious time with him. I would suggest that "Not Talking" and his wife tell their teens about her prognosis of three to four years. They deserve to know. They should have the opportunity to discuss what's going on in their lives and allow their mom to reflect on her own life, and her hopes and dreams for her kids. — MISSING MY DAD IN INDIANA

DEAR ABBY: Being a teenager is challenging, but having a dying parent can make it excruciating. No matter how mature the teens appear, they are not ready to deal with what is coming.

The family may benefit from the Stephen Ministries program (stephenministries.org). Stephen Ministers are trained lay volunteers assigned to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life. Many Christian denominations participate. The parents can contact their local congregation to see if the program is available. — BEEN THERE IN FORT WORTH

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone - teens to seniors - is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

© 2015, Universal Press Syndicate

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun and Moon in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 13, 2015:

This year you fall into the role of lead actor more often than not. This pattern will become even more prominent as your magnetism soars to a new level. Be careful not to become too self-centered. If you are single, many people desire you. You'll want to consider the type of relationship you desire. If you are attached, your sweetie might accuse you of being too me-oriented. That statement probably will be true. Honor the sense of connection between you, and you both will flourish. A fellow LEO might be boisterous and demanding.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★ You might experience a certain amount of discomfort when dealing with today's events. You could be holding back on pursuing a long-term desire involving a loved one. You'll need to get past what a certain situation is demanding. Give 100 percent. Tonight: Spice up the night.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★ Your vision of what you want on the homefront will allow greater give-and-take with a roommate. At first, your desires could be different. However, once you start discussing each of your perspectives, you eventually will find some common ground. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Take charge of a situation that seems to be heading in a direction you don't like. You have the power to handle this matter and turn it around. A discussion in your professional life could become quite emotional. Remember to voice your feelings; they count. Tonight: Hang out.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Be aware of what needs to happen between you and someone else in order to make peace. Financial matters could prove to be more important than you originally had thought. Be willing to listen to others' thoughts. Discussion is a must. Tonight: Run errands before heading home.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You could be in a situation where your opinions count more than others' do. Ask for their

feedback. Try to avoid having them feel as if your way is the only way when dealing with you. You might not be happy about a friend's input. Tonight: Let your feelings flow.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ You don't need to worry about taking a back seat right now. However, doing so is likely to benefit you in some way. Keep your eyes and ears open, as you might need to hear and see some other actions that will force a decision later. Tonight: Make it an early bedtime.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your focus seems to be on a friend and your mutual interests with this person. Know that you are not always on the same page. Sometimes you feel that this person is demanding. Observe, and be more accountable for your side of the situation. Tonight: Where the gang is.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ Others will listen more carefully to what you share. You have expressed unusual creativity and an ability to get past previous restrictions. Those around you admire this ability. Move forward on a matter that could affect your career. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance; you might want this person's feedback. You will be offering your knowledge and experience because of a decision made today. Don't postpone your plans, even if someone tries to coerce you to do so. Tonight: Think "travel."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ One-on-one relating dominates whatever you are doing right now. Some of you might be making important personal decisions, while others could be deciding important financial matters. Trust yourself, but also trust your advisers. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

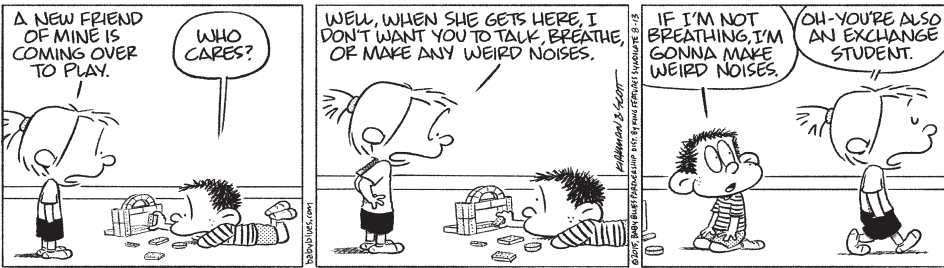
★★★★ You could be pushing yourself very hard at the moment. Though you might feel as though your situation is unchangeable, you must do your best to change it. Reschedule certain plans and make it OK to do less. You will be happier as a result. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

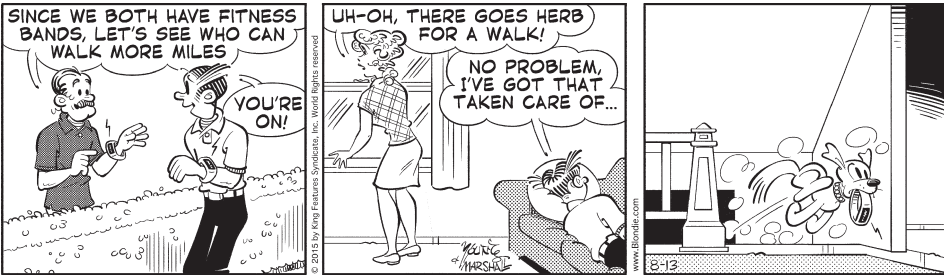
★★★★ You have a lot on your plate, yet you remain confident that you can handle it all. You might need to cancel some plans to complete certain responsibilities. Keeping your priorities in mind is important. Allow your imagination to wander, and share your ideas. Tonight: Pace yourself.

© 2015, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

